

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05172 161100Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----161105Z 109323 /21  
O 161030Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6331  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5172

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-4  
TAGS: PINT PFOR SHUM UR  
SUBJECT: FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE "SUNDAY SEMINAR"  
MAY TAKE PLACE

REF: (A) MOSCOW 4958, (B) STATE 79556, (C) MOSCOW 3911

SUMMARY. ORGANIZERS OF FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSIONS OF THE "SUNDAY SEMINAR" NOW FEEL THAT IT WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PLACE BEGINNING APRIL 17. SUMMONED TO THE KGB ON APRIL 15, THE HEAD OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE RECEIVED DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT AUTHORITIES HAD DECIDED TO LET SEMINAR GO ON. ORGANIZERS ARE ASTONISHED AT NUMBER OF (UNINVITED) SENIOR WESTERN SCIENTISTS WHO HOPE TO ATTEND. END SUMMARY.

1. IGOR MEL'CHUK (WHO WILL READ A PAPER AT THE FIFT ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE SUNDAY SEMINAR), BRIEFED US APRIL 15 ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATIONS. MEL'CHUK TOLD US THAT HE HAD SEEN MARK AZBEL (CHIEF ORGANIZER OF THE SEMINAR) AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, EARLIER THAT DAY.

2. THE SEMINAR IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN APRIL 17 AND TO RUN FOR THREE DAYS. ALL THE SESSIONS WILL BE IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05172 161100Z

AZBEL'S APARTMENT. NO FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO GIVE PAPERS, AND THERE WILL BE NO PAPERS ON SUBJECTS OTHER THAN THE "EXACT" (I.E. NATURAL) SCIENCES. MEL'CHUK NOTED THAT HIS OWN PAPER ON LINGUISTICS WAS ACCEPTED ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND ONLY BECAUSE OF ALL SOVIET LINGUISTS, HE IS THE ONE WHOSE APPROACH TO HIS FIELD IS MOST NEARLY THAT

OF AN "EXACT SCIENTIST".

3. NOT ONLY HAVE NO FOREIGNERS BEEN INVITED TO READ PAPERS, BUT NO FOREIGNERS WERE EVER FORMALLY INVITED TO ATTEND. AZBEL AND THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN ASTOUNDED, ACCORDING TO MEL'CHUK AT THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS WHO PROPOSE TO ATTEND. BESIDES THE GROUP OF AMERICANS (REFTELS B AND C), SENIOR SCIENTISTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WANT TO COME. MEL'CHUK SAID A GROUP OF FRENCH SCIENTISTS, INCLUDING NOBEL LAUREATE ANDRE LWOFF, HAD ASKED THE QUAI D'ORSAY TO INTERCEDE WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN PARIS TO GRANT THE DELEGATION VISAS. MEL'CHUK SAID THAT IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE ORGANIZERS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE SCIENTISTS WOULD MAKE IT TO MOSCOW FOR THE SEMINAR. HE STATED THAT OF COURSE THEY WOULD BE WELCOME.

4. ACCORDING TO MEL'CHUK, AZBEL WAS CALLED TO KGB HEADQUARTERS APRIL 14. HE WAS TELEPHONED (AT HIS NEIGHBORS) BY "HIS" CASE OFFICER EARLY IN THE EVENING, AND ASKED TO COME IMMEDIATELY BY A CAR PROVIDED BY KGB. HE WAS RECEIVED BY A GENERAL GAVRILOV FOR A LONG INTERVIEW WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY MARKED BY "UNPRECEDENTED, EXTRAORDINARY POLITENESS" AND FOCUSED ON BOTH THE SEMINAR AND ON AZBEL'S OWN, LONG-STANDING APPLICATION TO LEAVE THE USSR. GAVRILOV TOLD AZBEL THAT THE AUTHORITIES WERE ON THE VERGE OF APPROVING HIS APPLICATION, BUT HIS BEHAVIOR - HIS CONTACTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05172 161100Z

WITH CERTAIN FOREIGNERS AND HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SUNDAY SEMINAR - "WERE NOT CONDUCIVE TO A POSITIVE DECISION IN THE MATTER." HE WAS TOLD THAT HE SHOULD NOT SEE THE FOREIGNERS ANY LONGER.

5. AS TO THE SEMINAR, HE WAS TOLD THAT IT MIGHT STILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PLACE. GAVRILOV REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM THE AUTHORITIES HAD WITH THE SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SESSION WAS THAT THE SEMINAR MEMBERS WERE JEWISH DISSIDENTS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD SECURITY CLEARANCES. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT SECRET INFORMATION BE DISCUSSED, AND THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGNERS "SOME OF WHOM WOULD CERTAINLY BE SPIES" AT THE ANNIVERSARY SESSION WAS A BAD DEVELOPMENT. "NEVERTHELESS, GAVRILOV REPORTEDLY SAID, "IT IS NOT EXCLUDED, IF ALL GOES WELL, THAT THE SEMINAR CAN TAKE PLACE." AZBEL REPORTEDLY OBSERVED THAT THE SEMINAR HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR FIVE YEARS, THAT THE AUTHORITIES KNEW WELL WHAT SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED

AND UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SEMINAR WAS DEVOTED TO ABSOLUTELY NON-CLASSIFIED MATTERS. FOREIGNERS HAD LONG ATTENDED SESSIONS OF THE SEMINAR. IN ANY CASE, THOSE WHO MIGHT COME THIS TIME DID SO FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, NOT AT THE INVITATION OF THE ORGANIZERS.

6. AZBEL AND MEL'CHUK NOW BELIEVE THAT THE UNIQUELY POLITE BEHAVIOR OF A VERY SENIOR KGB OFFICIAL MEANS THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED TO LET THE SEMINAR GO ON. ACCORDING TO MEL'CHUK, SOVIET AUTHORITIES PRESUMABLY FEAR REPETITION OF THE BAD PUBLICITY IN THE WESTERN PRESS THAT SURROUNDED THE ABORTIVE CULTURAL AFFAIRS SYMPOSIUM OF LAST DECEMBER. THE APPROACH OF THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE MAY ALSO HAVE PLAYED A ROLE. AZBEL REPORTEDLY ALSO BELIEVES THAT PRESSURE FROM SENIOR WESTERN SCIENTISTS, WHO HE BELIEVES WERE READY TO ORGANIZE DEMONSTRATIONS, TO END SCIENTIFIC CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 05172 161100Z

COOPERATION WITH THE USSR, AND TO ATTEMPT TO GENERATE MAXIMUM ADVERSE PUBLICITY FOR A SOVIET REFUSAL MAY HAVE PLAYED A PART AS WELL. IN ANY EVENT THE ORGANIZERS ARE NOW OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SEMINAR WILL COME OFF.  
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, RESEARCH, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, SEMINARS, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MOSCOW05172  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770133-0060  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770450/aaaabrdl.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** e9e5cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 MOSCOW 4958, 77 STATE 79556, 77 MOSCOW 3911  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2787064  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SESSION OF THE "SUNDAY SEMINAR" MAY TAKE PLACE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, SHUM, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e9e5cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009